

*In the Specification*

The following paragraph replaces the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10 after “CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:” in the specification of the application:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS: This application is also related to: U.S. Patent Application ~~XX/XXX,XXX~~ 10/659,129 filed September 10, 2003, entitled, “METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTEGRATING PRIMARY DATA STORAGE WITH LOCAL AND REMOTE DATA PROTECTION” U.S. Patent Application ~~XX/XXX,XXX~~ 10/658,978 filed September 10, 2003, entitled “METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TWO-LEVEL STORAGE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE SECURE, SHARED AND SCALABLE DISTRIBUTED DATA STORAGE AND PROTECTION;” and U.S. Patent Application ~~XX/XXX,XXX~~ 10/659,128 filed September 10, 2003, entitled “METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING DATA INTEGRITY OF BACKUP AND DISASTER RECOVERY DATA” each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.